the report that some fifty thousand workers were crossing the Neva bridges on the way to the Marian Palace, the session of the Executive Committee was adjourned and Chkheidze drove with me to meet the crowd. We overtook it in the Marsovo Pole (Mars Field). The column was marching twenty men abreast, with armed men in front. Chkheidze ordered the chauffeur to stop in front of the procession. The column halted, and he asked the leaders the purpose of the demonstration.

"We are defending the revolution!" was the reply.

"Why do you carry arms?"

"Against the enemies!"

Chkheidze addressed the workers, thanked them for their loyalty to the revolution, and urged them to return to their homes. Then I spoke from the top of the car. The people around us were morose. A former member of the Council of the Unemployed stood near the car. He said to me reproachfully, "Instead of being in front of us, Comrade Petrov, you are sending us back to our homes."

On the order of its leaders, the column made a detour around our car and went on, but it stopped at the edge of Mars Field. A meeting was held, a resolution passed expressing bitter disappointment in the policy of the Executive Committee, and the crowd was disbanded.

While we were busy at Mars Field, an infantry regiment appeared in front of the Marinsky Palace in march formation, with arms but without officers, under the command of a private. At his order the soldiers encircled the building. The leader entered the palace with a handful of soldiers, asked for the Chief of Government Affairs, and handed him a resolution demanding Miliukov's resignation. The people in the palace considered that the government was under arrest, but the leader of the demonstration returned to his regiment, formed it into a column, and marched it back to the barracks. After all, this was a *peaceful* demonstration although it had a threatening undertone.

The members of the government were sure this threat had come from the Tauride Palace. Actually, the demonstration was organized by the chairman of the regimental committee, Linde, on his own initiative. He was a mathematician and astronomer by training and profession, deeply devoted to the idea of national defense. When he learned of Miliukov's memorandum, his first thought was that it would undermine all our work in the army. Only the immediate resignation of Miliukov, he thought, could save the situation. Convinced that the Executive Committee would react similarly, Linde called on the men to march to the Marinsky Palace but forgot to notify the Tauride Palace of his plan.

In the evening the Soviet met in the *aula maxima* of the Naval